CLAM/QUAHOG DREDGE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

This log contains detailed questions about the gear fished. Complete a new log for each uniquely configured gear (as defined below) **hauled** during a trip. These unique configurations may be based on variables such as cage, chain bag, *etc.* Any changes in these fields require completion of a new Clam/Quahog Dredge Characteristics Log. Number each gear configuration sequentially.

If a gear is set out and hauled more than once during a trip, do not complete a new Clam/Quahog Dredge Gear Characteristics Log for *each haul* rather record on the Clam/Quahog Dredge Haul Log which gear number *was* being hauled. In addition, record any other information necessary to understand the manner in which the gear was set/hauled in COMMENTS.

If information is unavailable or unknown to any question except a "No/Yes" question, record a dash (-) in the field. If the answer to a "No/Yes" question is unknown, record a "9" on the line next to the code for "No" to indicate that the field was not skipped, but the answer is unknown. If a field relates to a question to which you previously answered "No", leave the field blank.

Become familiar with the following definition(s).

DEFINITIONS

Dredge: A towed steel frame with a blade/knife on the bottom. It may have a steel ring-bag for holding the clams/quahogs.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields **A**, **B and D** refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

1. GEAR NUMBER(S): Record the consecutive number(s) assigned to each uniquely configured gear hauled.

Example: The first uniquely configured gear is gear number "1". This gear number ("1") will be used on the Clam/Quahog Dredge Haul Log for each haul. If at any time, the gear configuration changes a new consecutive gear number ("2") will be assigned. The "Gear Number" field on all haul logs after the gear change must reflect the new gear number that was assigned.

2. CAGE HEIGHT: Record, in whole inches, the overall height of the cage frame. Measure this distance from the bottom of the dredge cage to the top of the dredge cage. See Figure 1.

3. CAGE WIDTH: Record, in whole inches, the dredge cage width. Measure this distance from the bottom of the dredge cage to the top of the dredge cage. See Figure 1.

4. CAGE LENGTH: Record, in whole inches, the dredge cage length. Measure this distance from the bottom of the dredge cage to the top of the dredge cage. See Figure 1.

5. CAGE BOTTOM BAR DIAMETER: Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the size of the bars in the bottom of the cage.

6. CAGE BOTTOM BAR SPACING: Record, to the nearest tenth of an inch, the distance between the bars in the bottom of the cage.

CHAIN BAG

7. USED?: Record whether a chain bag is used at the back of the dredge.

0 = No.
1 = Yes.

8. AVERAGE NUMBER OF LINKS BETWEEN TWO RINGS: Record the **average** number of links used between two rings in the bottom of the chain bag.

9. LINK STOCK SIZE: Record the fractional diameter of the steel used in the links between the rings in the bottom of the chain bag. This information may be found on the container in which the links were purchased, obtained from the captain, or measured with calipers.

Example: 3/8.

10. INSIDE RING SIZE (TOP OF BAG): Record, in whole millimeters, the inside diameters of five randomly selected rings from the top of the chain bag. Use calipers for these measurements. See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

11. INSIDE RING SIZE (BOTTOM OF BAG): Record, in whole millimeters, the inside diameters of five randomly selected rings from the bottom of the chain bag. Use calipers for these measurements. See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

12. OUTSIDE RING SIZE: Record, in whole millimeters, the outside diameter of one randomly selected ring from the bottom of the chain bag. Use calipers for this measurement. See Appendix P. Vernier Caliper Instructions for further information.

13. SORTER USED?: Record whether a mechanical sorter was used to remove undersized shellfish, debris, etc. from the catch.

14. TOWLINE TYPE: Record the type of line configuration used to tow the dredge by placing an "x" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Single.
2 = Bridle.
3 = Other, record the towline type on line 14A.

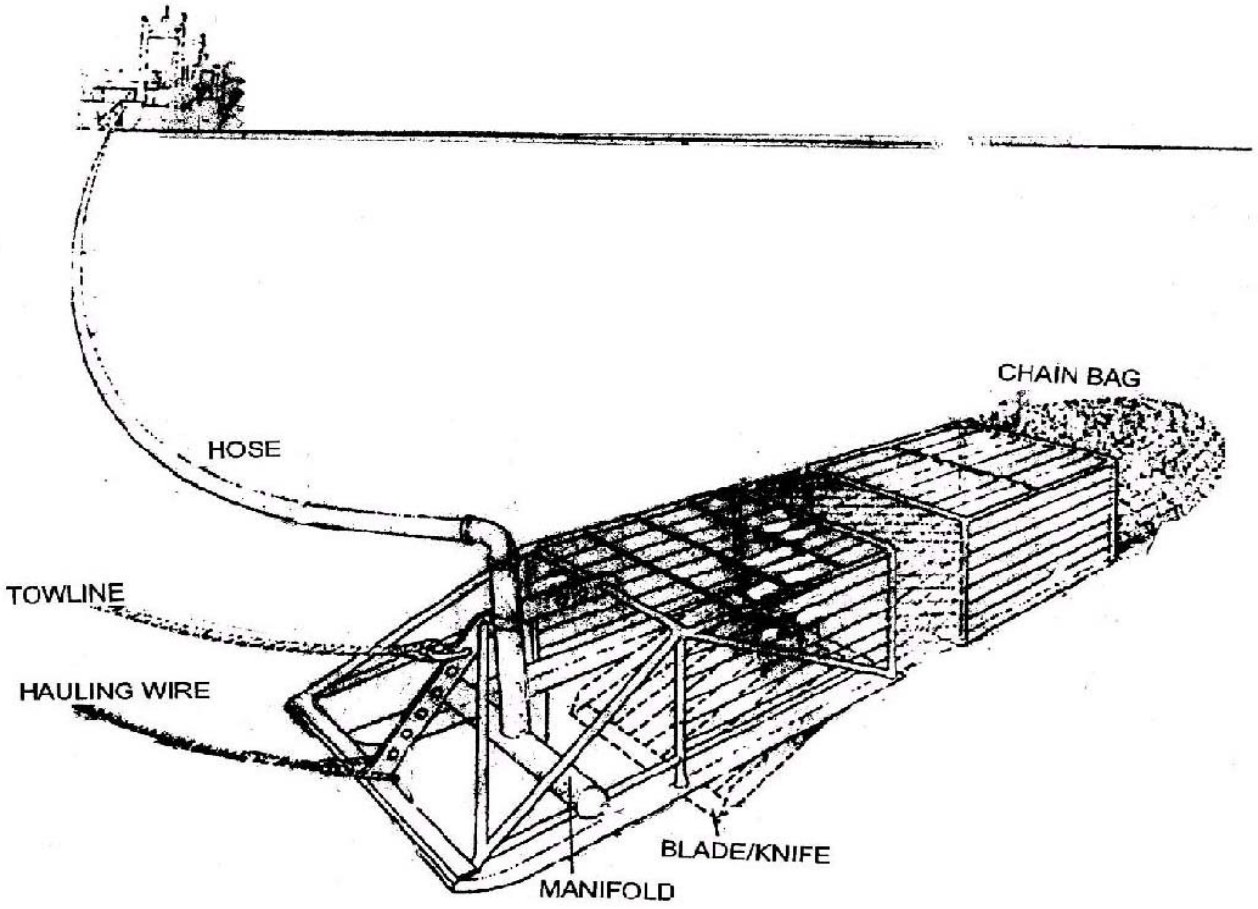
15. POSITION: Record where the towline is attached to the dredge by placing an "x" next to the appropriate code:

0 = Unknown.
1 = Forward Section.
2 = Over top of the knife.
3 = Other, record the towline position on line 15A.

16. NUMBER OF NOZZLES: Record the total number of nozzles used on the dredge.

COMMENTS

Record any additional information about the dredge in the appropriate comment block. If more room is needed, use the back of this log, making sure to write "See Back" on the front of the log. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.



EXAMPLE OF A TWO PIECE DREDGE

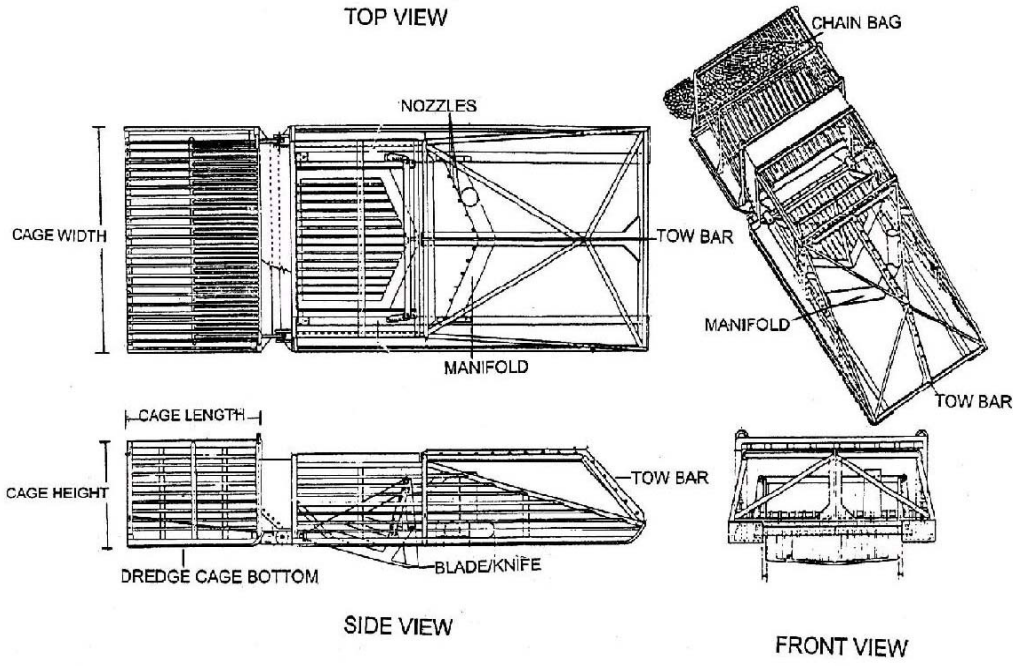


Figure 1